The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, concerning in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 29, 1917, at the Post-Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 13, NO. 25. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1923. WHOLE NO. 648.

MINERS' CHECK-OFF DEMAND AROUSES ANTI-UNIONISTS' HATE

What a hullabaloo the coal owners' ballyhoos are raising against the mine workers' check-off demand? The anthracite coal owners' position is not justified, as many of the more powerful of these owners have recognized the check-off in the bituminous fields for the last 25 years.

The check-off is a common transaction between men. It is another name for assignment of wages.

In other industries men are employed in groups and generally speak one language.

In mining the operations cover a large area, and in many of the fields there is a babel of tongues.

With this material the union is called upon to enforce agreements, and its members must risk their lives with men over whom they have no control because they are outside the union.

Under these conditions the miner asks that his assignment of wages be recognized; that the employer take out of their envelopes an amount the miners designate and pay same to the union's representative, who will be designated in the formal and legal assignment, made by the miner.

The coal owners oppose the plan because it weakens their control over the workers. The employers will benefit through a disciplined, compact body, but they believe nothing can recompense them if they lost control of employes.

The check-off, or assignment of wages, is so common that no attention would be paid to it if the union were not involved.

The check-off is used by railroads in connection with their company "unions." In this check-off, however, the worker makes no assignment. The money is taken from his envelope, and if he doesn't like it he is privileged to quit.

These railroads include the Pennsylvania, Delaware & Hudson, Norfolk & Western, and other anti-union, coal-carrying systems.

Anthracite coal owners who oppose the miners' check-off are interested in these railroads, but they make no protest against a plan that appears to menace civilization only when urged by mine workers.

Between the railroads' check-off and the miners' check-off is the difference between compulsion and voluntary action.

It takes some nerve to ignore the railroads' compulsion and denounce the miners' voluntary proposal, but the coal owners' ballyhoos are equal to the task.

Justice, principle, and right are not considered by them. They are not interested in facts. Their one concern is the wishes of industrial autocrats.

To them the worker must maintain his serf status. Outrardly, he may be free, but in practice he must not have the power to be a collective part of industry, or have his union dues collected in an efficient manner.

Misrepresentation of the miners' check-off illustrates the methods of those who would warp the public mind. In every other wage movement the same forces operate. The ballyhoos rush to the aid of privilege. And when peace is restored they prattle their views on "the need for fact-finding agencies to enlighten the public"

Industrial peace, or even an enlightened public opinion at an industrial crisis, is impossible under these conditions.

It is no solution to lash the public into a frenzy of fright against the unions. This policy has often proved successful, but it is losing its effectiveness. The workers no longer stampede against whirlwinds of untruths.

This is shown in the case of the anthracite miners, who suspended work, 90 per cent, despite the nation-wide campaign of misrepresentation that they have been compelled to face.

The disregard for facts and the amazing propaganda of the agents of privilege must be replaced by truthfulness and sanity.

Must Recognize Unions For Industrial Peace

Oshkosh, Wis., Sept. 7.—"We can not have industrial peace or national prosperity until the employers of labor frankly recognize the workers' right to organize and freely choose his representatives in the same way that he chooses his representatives in government," said Rev. F. J. Haas, Ph. D., of St. Francis seminary, Milwaukee, in a Labor day speech in this city.

The speaker declared that collective bargaining is both natural and necessary. "It is natural because it is in the nature of human beings that those who have common aims and likes and aspirations should unite to advance their common interests," he said.

"Collective bargaining is necessary because the individual wage earner is very often no contract at all. It is frequently invalid and unjust because it lacks the free consent of the worker. When a laborer accepts any wage that is offered him because his family needs food or clothing or medicine, he is the victim of force. Moreover, the worker in this is obliged to bargain individually often accepts a rate of pay less than the going market rate simply because he does not know what the market rates are."

UNORGANIZED GIRLS VICTIMIZED BY BOSSES

Victoria, British Columbia, Sept. 7.—Employers in this city have combined in a blacklist against those who complain of violations of the women's minimum wage law. At hearings conducted by the minimum wage board, witnesses stated that these girls are unable to obtain employment.

Rev. Dr. Somerset, minister of labor and chairman of the board, stated that the labor department will make a thorough investigation.

MINERS SUSPEND WORK AWARD IS NO SOLUTION

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Sept. 7.—The mine workers rejected Governor Pinchot's proposed wage settlement and because their contract expired August 31 they suspended work.

In their response to the governor's award, the miners say that the 10 per cent advance is a step in the right direction, as far as the contract miners are concerned, but the percentage plan for the 65 per cent of anthracite miners who are employed by the day would not equalize the differentials and increase the inequalities which already are the cause of bitter complaint among these workers.

The miners emphasize that a flat increase (they propose $1 a day) for the day workers is the solution, rather than a percentage increase, which can apply to contract workers.

A percentage increase also has the effect of giving to the lowest paid worker a lesser increase in actual wages than is given to those who enjoy a higher rate," the miners say.

The miners regret that the governor does not explain his refusal to include the cost of living needs food or clothing or medicine, he is the victim of force. Moreover, the worker in this is obliged to bargain individually often accepts a rate of pay less than the going market rates simply because he does not know what the market rates are."

The miners' attention to the check-off in the bituminous regions, where it has operated for a considerable time. Their attention is also called to the fact that many anthracite coal owners who denounce the check-off accept it in the soft coal fields.

Would Have State Probe All Industrial Accidents

Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 7.—State investigation and prevention of industrial accidents and diseases is urged by the Ohio State federation of labor and Ohio organized labor.

At the request of these two bodies, the last state legislature voted to submit to a referendum a law amendment which would provide for an annual tax of not to exceed 1 per cent of the premiums paid by employers into the state insurance fund yearly, to be used by the industrial accidents commission for the investigation and prevention of industrial accidents and diseases.

For several years employers and employed in this state have urged the legislature to provide for a study of accidents. It is now proposed to put the cost on industry, and if the people approve the funds will be available each year without appealing to the legislature.

EXPLOIT PRISON LABOR

Chicago, Sept. 7.—The large number of prison officials and prison contractors at the recent convention of the National Association of Manufacturers' association, leads Will R. Reed, editor of the Broom Maker, to the belief that the convention was controlled by convict labor exploiters.

The trade unionist scores politicians and others who would blind broom makers in various institutions.

"It is almost impossible to believe that there are those who are depraved as to do the things that have been done in the name of charity in some of these blind workshops," he says.

"The blind broom maker should be paid 100 per cent above the union scale and be protected by law in all state, county and city institutions in his state, paid for by such political divisions of the state. The broom worker close all these institutions, oust political appointees and give the appropriation direct to the broom worker blind of the state in the form of a pension.

The use of public funds to destroy an industry is criminal in prisons as well as these institutions for the blind and that is just what is being done to the broom industry."

CHILDREN NOT GUARDED

Washington, Sept. 7.—But eight states have improved their child labor laws since the federal child labor law was annulled by the United States supreme court, says the children's bureau in a Labor day report of the situation.

In the meantime, 44 state legislatures have met, the statement said, adding that in none of the 36 states not one and 36 legislatures have let their standards "been brought up to those of the federal law in every particular."

"Failure of state legislation to check child labor," officials declared, "makes it evident that the industrial problem, national in its effects and is national in its importance."

LURING IMMIGRANTS

Vancouver, British Columbia, Sept. 7.—The local central body will acquaint the British trade union movement on methods employed by railroads to lure English immigrants to western Canada. Conditions are being misrepresented to immigrants, who would not come if they knew the facts.

MILK DRIVERS SAIN.

St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 7.—More than 600 organized milk drivers have secured a 10 per cent wage increase. The $42.50 weekly rate of small drivers is advanced to $46.75, and the $43.50 rate of route foreman is increased to $46.75. These workers are affiliated with the Brotherhood of Teamsters.

VOCATIONAL COURSES NOT MANUAL TRAINING

Washington, Sept. 7.—The general popular discussion of vocational education has been uninformed and superficial, says William T. Bawden of the bureau of education, in a pamphlet issued by the bureau.

"The real estate promoter," said Mr. Bawden, "may be excused for referring to a junior high school manual arts department as a 'trade school,' and to handiwork in the elementary grades as 'vocational courses,' and for listing them as such among the assets of a community, but the magazine writer or newspaper editor who essays a discussion of public education on this basis shows clearly his incompetence of the task."

It is stated that the function of vocational education "is, obviously, to train skilled workers to a definite occupation. This should parallel the general education, so that while the student is receiving a degree of general education for the business of living with his fellows, he is also acquiring the skills, speech and habits of thought needed for success in the trade or occupation studied.

"The functions of manual training are more general in character. It should give some skill in the use of tools, and should include such information, experience and skills as are applicable to home needs, but particularly it should aim to give a wide view of the industrial world, to develop social adaptiveness, to point the way to different vocations and to assist in the intelligent choice of a life work.

"It is idle to criticise vocational education as being narrowly specialized in outlook, materialistic and neglectful of the finer things of life. The great problem in vocational education today and the immediate future is the training of those who have already gone to work."

"SAFETY FIRST" WORK LOWERS ACCIDENT COSTS

Olympia, Wash., Sept. 7.—In a bulletin issued by the state department of labor and industries it is shown that "safety first" activity reduces the hazards of industry and lowers workmen's compensation cost.

In 1922 the amount paid out in accident claims totaled $2,278,923. This is a saving of $307,654.61, or 13½ per cent, says the bulletin.

"In addition to the direct saving of $307,654.61," says the bulletin, "the industrial and workmen alike have had the benefit of active employment which this achievement in accident prevention work made possible."

MINERS ASSAULTED

Washington, Sept. 7.—Miners continue to be brutally assaulted in various anti-union sections of the country, the coal commission is again informed by a committee representing the United Mine Workers of America.

In a protest filed with the commission, the unionists recite the case of James Pascoe, president of District No. 30, United Mine Workers, who was terribly beaten by a gun man at Paintsville, Ky.

"This is but one of the hundreds of cases that are on record, but it is a fair sample of the methods that are employed by these non-union coal companies," said the committee. "The Pascoe case is no different from the scores of others that happen continually in southern West Virginia, Alabama, Colorado, Utah, Kentucky and elsewhere where the union is weak. The United Mine Workers of America are praying this commission formulate some sort of action or recommendation that will bring this situation squarely before the American people."

MINERS NON-PARTISAN

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Sept. 7.—Striking miners in this county are devoting their time to politics. The miners have adopted the A. F. of L. non-partisan political policy, and are backing candidates for the offices of county judge, sheriff and district attorney. Rinaldo Cappellini, the youthful one-armed president of District No. 1, is taking an active part in the campaign.

Cappellini was recently elected, and it was predicted that he would "up" the district. He is fooling the prophets, however, by his support of trade union methods and of President Lewis.

TAILORS TO ORGANIZE

Rochester, N. Y., Sept. 7.—The Journeymen Tailors' union has started an organizing drive that will include every section of the city. In their call for unity the tailors declare that "the organized labor movement is the protector and defender of the wage earners and is the one power left that stands between them and exploitation."

CARPENTERS RAISE WAGES

New Haven, Conn. Sept. 7.—Carpenters in this city have raised wages from 90 cents an hour to $1.

Mine Evils In West Virginia Exposed

Washington, Sept. 7.—Many of the indictments that the United Mine Workers have made against West Virginia coal owners are contained in a report by Nettie P. McGill on the welfare of children in Raleigh county, West Virginia, published by the United States children's bureau.

The report states that "some of the coal fields in the county were unionized, others were not." That the union is powerless, however, to change conditions is indicated by this statement:

"Whether conditions are good or bad depends upon the policy of the coal company and not upon the will of the inhabitants."

Of the 645 families (with 1,965 children) interviewed, 93.4 per cent of the families were native white and 25 per cent colored.

"The coal mining company and the coal-land company," it is stated, "own the town site and the whole surrounding territory, controlling, in some cases, the roads leading into the town. Practically all the houses and, as a rule, the stores and other buildings, are company owned.

"Sometimes even the church, if there is one, and the school house, are built by the company, which often supplements or pays in full the salary of the pastor and the teacher."

The report states that the inhabitants are helpless against the will of the company. Of this it says:

"More than nine-tenths of the families interviewed lived in houses rented from the company.

"It was not uncommon for men to sign the lease without knowing what it was. Most of the houses were generally lacking in the essentials of a comfortable dwelling. Rooms were small and few in number; they were inconvenient, insanitary, ill-ventilated and cold. Some were said to be 'like paper' when the wind struck them. The floors were often only a single layer of boards, sometimes with cracks an inch or more wide, placed directly on the ground through which the cold air circulated freely.

"The need of a bath in a miner's home is a real one, it was stated, but of all the families interviewed, but 52 homes—"usually those of the mine executives"—had baths in their homes, "so that only 136 of the 1,928 children enjoyed what in these days is considered a necessity."

"Without a bathroom, the miner's daily bath is likely to be taken under uncomfortable and inconvenient circumstances. Water—and not amount at best—must be heated on the kitchen stove, and in the small, crowded houses strict privacy is difficult to secure.

"One-fourth of the school rooms had too few seats for the average number of pupils attending, and at least had no seats at all, from three to seven single seats for classes of from 18 to 55 pupils. In one camp 25 wooden boxes for the children's use as seats had been supplied by the grocer.

"Many of the schools had no water on the premises. Several teachers said they had instructed the children to drink at home, and not ask for water when in school."

The pamphlet is a continuous story of low wages, insanitary conditions, no social life, poor schooling and company stores.

OPPOSE PRISON LABOR; UNION ARGUMENT USED

New York, Sept. 7.—In its campaign against prison-made goods, the international association of garment manufacturers is using every argument organized labor has for years presented in its war against this evil. These manufacturers now openly declare that prison labor is harmful and should be abolished.

This statement by A. F. Allison, secretary of the manufacturers' association, sounds like a trade union declaration:

"Under the contract labor system, prisoners engaged in the production of garments are subjected to extremely low wage, thus lowering the cost of manufacture to the contractor and enabling him to underbid those manufacturers who employ free labor at the prevailing wage rates in their communities.

"We believe that the present system is not only bad business from a general economic standpoint, but from the standpoint of the state and the prisoner as well. Let the prison contractors now operate team work over selfish efforts to take the poor convict from his pet sewing machine."

We are sure that the public has a broad interest in this fight, for the proper handling of the whole prison question is of vital importance to every citizen."

The manufacturers find their efforts are opposed by business men who profit by the sale of these commodities.

WOULD OUST COMPANY

Trenton, N. J., Sept. 7.—Governor Silzer has ordered the state and railway company evicted from the streets of 141 New Jersey cities and towns. This corporation furnished street car transportation to these communities up to a month ago, when 2,300 employes suspended work because of wage differences. The workers will accept a proposed settlement and return to work, but the company demands higher fares and abolition of the jitneys.

"The time has come for the state to act," said the governor. "The streets of the state belong to the public. We gave the company the use of our streets with the clear understanding that in return it was to give adequate transportation facilities to the public. We must then either have the service or the streets back."

STRIKEBREAKERS STEAL

Trenton, Mo., Sept. 7.—Strikebreakers employed by the Rock Island railroad at this point have become so proficient in picking up other people's property that officers have posted this notice in all stores:

"All Shop Employes—There has been much complaint on the part of our employes in regard to tools and clothing being stolen.

"Anyone caught breaking in the lockers or taking any other employe's clothing will be dismissed from the service."

"YELLOW DOG" ORDER MODIFIED BY COURT

Chicago, Sept. 7.—Federal Judge Cliffe has modified the Chicago Carpenter's "yellow dog" injunction, which was granted at the request of an anti-union firm of ladies' garment manufacturers.

The firm compelled every employe to sign an agreement that they will not join a labor organization while so employed. When the union garment workers started their organizing campaign in this city they ran afoul of the "yellow dog," and were enjoined by Judge Barnes.

Judge Cliffe now permits the unionists to speak to non-unionists.

The validity of the "yellow dog," however, is upheld, and courts still take it upon themselves to protect a contract in which workers are forced, through necessity to labor, to sign away their lawful right to join a trade union.

The "yellow dog" has been upheld by the United States supreme court in the Hitchman (W. Va., Gompers and Miners) that courts can enjoin any one from discussing trade unionism with a worker who has signed the "yellow dog."

LABOR DAY AT FORT

New York, Sept. 7.—Thousands of trade unionists and their families swarmed over the grounds of Fort Hamilton for their Labor day celebration this year. It is the first time in the history of the country that an army fort was turned over to wage workers to observe their national holiday.

Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt, Frank Gompers and Rear Admiral Plunkett were the principal speakers. President Gompers urged restriction of immigration, and the agitation for free immigration is inspired by anti-union employers. It is dangerous to throw open our institutions, he declared, to permit unrestricted immigration into America while millions of workers already here are un-Americanized.

"We must assimilate the foreign people we have now, before we open the doors to a flood of alien labor," said the trade union executive.

MUSICIANS ARE SUED

Norwich, Conn., Sept. 7.—Organized musicians of this city are called upon to hand over a little matter of $40,000 to an anti-union band leader.

A minstrel show came to town the other day and refused to "play" the anti-union band leader. The audience of 1,200 dismissed. Because of this exhibition of union solidarity, the owner claims $40,000.

HUGE DRUG PROFITS

New York, Sept. 7.—In six months the United Drug company made a clear profit of $1,184,817 after it set aside funds for depreciation and doubtful accounts and paid dividends and interest charges.

BARBERS RAISE WAGES

New York, Sept. 7.—More than 1,000 barbers employed in 500 Brooklyn shops won a wage increase after a short strike.

LOGAN COUNTY THUG RULE GIVEN PUBLICITY

Charleston, W. Va., Sept. 7.—Logan county, its industrial autocrats and defiance of law, were subjects for Labor day speeches in the principal cities and towns of the state. Again were recounted the denials of constitutional rights by anti-union coal owners, operating through political agents and gun men.

In urging West Virginia unionists to organize, conditions in Logan county, officers of the state federation of labor said:

"The existence and recognition of primary civil rights, lying at the very foundation of free government, it is imperative that these be recognized in all parts of the state before other rights can be safeguarded."

SOUTHERN CLERGYMAN DEFENDS DIXIE LABOR

Charlotte, N. C., Sept. 7.—With ridicule and sarcasm Rev. Tom P. Jimison replies to an evangelist at Cramerton, a mill town, near here, who

"thanked God that our southern mill operatives have sense enough to run their own business without allowing foreign immigration to come in and dictate how they shall work. I want you fellows, when these agitators come in, interfering with your business, to go out and hold prayer meeting with them. Make it so hot for them that they will have to leave town."

Following this incitement to violence, the evangelist praised the one textile mill owner in that town for "keeping his hands satisfied."

Writing in the Charlotte Herald, Rev. Jimison defends labor, while confessing alarm at the growing discontent "of these textile hands."

"Of course we want our hands to be satisfied," said the clergyman. "But many of these workers are wondering how it is that being built up spiritually will keep the pangs of hunger from gnawing when the larder is low.

"They are asking how we expect them to be sustained spiritually when their craving for leisure, for books, for education, for a measure of independence, for all those things which make for spirituality are denied them by reason of low wages and long hours.

"It is really alarming how informed and discontented are some of these textile hands are getting.

"Christians praying for a man, even though that man be an agitator, would not run him out of town. That sort of a meeting would not be hot. No Christian would run from it. Even were it true that such a procedure would run the agitator out, we must not encourage it. Praying is a dangerous thing when you connect it up with industrial institutions. You get to Christianity by praying for agitators and they will remember to pray for children, for children who are overworked and underfed. They will pray for women and for ignorant and oppressed people.

"Can't you see how dangerous that is? It will create more discontent than a thousand welfare workers can handle. Better leave the praying off. If we are going to try to keep our hands satisfied. If the agitators come, have them arrested by the county policeman. If that don't work, get up a mob and bluff them off with threats of tar and feathers."

LABOR INJUNCTIONS AGAINST DEMOCRACY

Decatur, Ill., Sept. 7.—"If we are to have democracy in government in the broadest sense, the injunctions of judges must be abandoned and provision made for their popular election," said President Walker of the Illinois state federation of labor in his report to the annual convention.

Recent injunctions are certainly abrogating the free speech, free press and peaceful assemblage provisions of the constitution of the United States."

President Walker pointed out that these injunctions also abrogate jury trial guarantees by the state and federal constitutions, and that defendants are also denied the right of habeas corpus and the right of appeal.

"The proceedings in the trial usually reverse the lawful and legal procedure of all other court cases, under the constitution and laws of both the nation and the states."

WAGE GAINS FOR CAB MEN

St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 7.—Wage increases have been granted to practically all employes of the United railways company within the past several days. The latest gain was to members of the Street Car Men's union. They will be paid 10 cents an hour the first year, 15 cents the second year, 25 the third year, and 47 cents the fourth year and thereafter. Shop men, and track and car cleaners increased from 3 to 4½ cents an hour.

STAGE EMPLOYES ADVANCE

New York, Sept. 7.—Stage employes and theater managers have adjusted wage differences which threatened at one time to spread all over the country. The new rate is $46 a week for an eight-hour day.

COAL DEALERS GOUGE BUT ESCAPE CENSURE

Washington, Sept. 7.—In a report issued just prior to the miners' suspension of work, the United States coal commission charges that jobbers and wholesalers were responsible for high prices for anthracite coal last year.

The commission said wholesalers are often connected with the mines through interlocking directorates and that an investigation of anthracite prices in New England revealed that wholesalers' profits ran as high as $4.75 a ton.

Pyramiding prices and "paper" sales between wholesalers was again exposed in the report. The commission said that as many as four wholesale jobbers handled one sale and sometimes intervened between the miner and retailer in New England last winter.

New York, Sept. 7.—The New York World asks why the United States coal commission delayed publishing its report on hard coal profits until this late date.

This newspaper intimates that the public had not made up its mind on the differences between mine workers and coal operators. The public press, however, seems practically sure that the public has made up its mind, which, by inference, is against the miners.

Contrary to this attitude of the press, the public is glad the coal commission's report comes too late, and that it is "not enough in itself to turn the balance of public opinion against the miners' demands."

LAWMAKERS OWN STOCK IN SOUTHERN TEXTILES

New York, Sept. 7.—In his report from North Carolina to officers of the United Textile Workers, Organizer Fitzhugh quotes from the Charlotte News to show how "public servants" friends hold stock in the textile mills of this state, and this is why labor laws are tampered with.

"We have learned the lesson not to put any confidence in these legislatures throughout the country," said the trade unionist. "In regard to North Carolina, the Charlotte News, in its editorial columns of July 25, 1923, says the following in regard to the legislature tampering with existing laws on the subject of labor, which are favorable to employers:

"One reason for this lies in the widespread distribution of stock in the cotton mills in the state. In the cotton milling counties of North Carolina—and they are numerous—it is very difficult to find a candidate for the legislature who does not own stock in a cotton mill, or whose friends and relatives are not stockholders."

"This puts the whole case in a nutshell," says Organizer Fatough, who declares that even though a 48-hour law for women was passed by the legislature this does not mean that the textile workers will abandon their powerful activity to secure a short workday.

ENFORCE "YELLOW DOG"

Knoxville, Tenn., Sept. 7.—A strike of 18,000 coal miners in Tennessee and Kentucky is probable, according to information forwarded the federal coal commission by officials of the United Mine Workers of America, who are attempting to enforce the "yellow dog" contract, under which the miners agree not to join the union. Operators of nine workers have filed these charges against coal owners:

That miners who refuse to sign the "yellow dog" are discharged, forced out of the camps, threatened with arrest and intimidated by deputy sheriffs in the employ of the coal owners.

That the miners are compelled to pay their union dues secretly, the maintenance of the "yellow dog" thus putting into effect the check-off, which the coal owners claim they oppose.

That miners are deprived of the right of free speech and free assemblage.

STEEL MEN SATISFIED

New York, Sept. 7.—The local press says Judge Gary has declared his company "is meeting with little or no opposition" to the eight-hour decree of the eight-hour day.

A few months ago, Judge Gary was asserting the public that his employes wanted to work 12 hours a day and that this was one of the principal reasons why a change could not be made.

STAGE EMPLOYES ADVANCE

New York, Sept. 7.—Stage employes and theater managers have adjusted wage differences which threatened at one time to spread all over the country. The new rate is $46 a week for an eight-hour day.

BOSSES' CHECK-OFF FORCED ON WORKERS

Chicago, Sept. 7.—Coal-carrying railroads in which many coal owners are interested, use the check-off, as do other railroads, according to B. M. Jewell, president of the A. F. of L. railway employes' department.

President Jewell lists these companies which deduct dues from pay envelopes, and in many cases force employes to join company "unions":

Pennsylvania railroad — Originator of the company "union" on railroads.

Delaware & Hudson — Employes forced to join company "union."

Atlantic Coast Line—Same as above.

Santa Fe—Dues of men who belong are deducted.

Central of Georgia—Employes required to join.

Rock Island—Required to join and dues are deducted.

Jacksonville Terminal and Missouri, Kansas & Texas—Same as above.

Norfolk & Western—All employes automatically become members of company "union." Company pays salaries and expenses of "union" representatives.

Pullman company—Extreme coercion being used to force employes to join this company "union."

Southern Pacific—Shop employes compelled to join company "union" and dues are deducted quarterly, in advance.

Chicago & Alton—Company compels membership in its "union," and deducts dues.

Wabash, Wheeling & Lake Erie and Great Northern—Same as above.

CO-OPS. TO MEET

East St. Louis, Ill., Sept. 7.—The fifth annual convention and meeting of the stockholders of the central states co-operative wholesale society will convene in this city September 30. Action will be taken on the proposal to increase the capital stock from $100,000 to $175,000. Trade unions and co-operative societies holding stock in the central will be delegates. Individual stockholders are also urged to be present.

The central is officered by trade unionists and is successfully meeting the wants of the many co-operative retail stores in the central states. The headquarters of the society is in this city, where a fine warehouse, with necessary trackage, is located.

The society has had the same difficulties that beset all attempts of the workers to co-operate actively. These obstacles, however, are being rapidly overcome.

Additional credentials can be had by addressing Al Towers, secretary-treasurer of the society, 203 Converse avenue, East St. Louis, Ill.

WIN LONG STRIKE

St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 7.—The motor coach company has now attempted to operate coaches on the streets with this sign on each car: "Union cabs."

The company took this method of informing the public its 31-months' fight with organized chauffeurs, affiliated with the Brotherhood of Teamsters, has ended.

The strike started New Years' eve, 1923, when the company attempted to cut wages from $27.50 a week to $20 a week and commissions.

The workers' victory is practically 100 per cent. Their old rate is restored, and only union men will be employed. The union agrees to accept as members any employe of the company now engaged. The company will withdraw a $250,000 damage suit.

PROGRESS BY MEAT CUTTERS

Milwaukee, Wis., Sept. 7.—Members of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen employed at the Charles Rees plant have raised wages 1 cent an hour. The new rates range from $5 to $6 cents an hour. The unionists are comparing this substantial gain with the rebate of the packers' company "union."